

The Second Cycle of the Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities (Shanghai Award) Call for Applications Rules and Guidelines

The Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities (Shanghai Award) aims to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and New Urban Agenda (NUA). It focuses on advancing Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) promoting the localization of SDGs, echoing on the Global Development Initiative (GDI), and incentivizing cities to find systematic solutions for sustainable urban development. In addition, the award will help build the platform for advancing UN-Habitat's strategic plan, flagship programmes and the Global Urban Monitoring Framework.

The establishment of the Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities (Shanghai Award) was officially announced by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat at the first session of the 2022 Executive Board of UN-Habitat on 30 March 2022. The call for applications of the first cycle of the award was formally publicized on 27 June 2022 during the 11th World Urban Forum (WUF) held in Poland. On October 28th, 2023, UN-Habitat and Shanghai Municipality successfully organized the first award ceremony of the Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities (Shanghai Award).

The Call for Applications of the **second cycle** of the award is **now open until 15 June 2024**.

I. Scope and Theme

The award is **open to cities all around the world** to recognise and honour their progress and achievements on implementing the SDGs and the NUA at the city level since 2016 when the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was formally initiated.

The general theme of the award is "**Building a Sustainable Urban Future for All**". Cities around the world striving for sustainable development are encouraged to apply to join the global discussion on sustainable urban development solutions.

Echoing the theme of the 2024 World Urban Forum (WUF), cities that have made significant progress in one or more of the following areas are particularly encouraged and welcome to apply:

Area 1: Quality and secure housing for diversified needs

Including but not limited to: a) improving residents' housing conditions and providing adequate housing that is affordable, well-located and supported with adequate facilities tailored to diverse needs; b) formulating reasonable pricing policies and housing loan schemes, and encouraging local governments, non-profit organizations or employers to offer various forms of housing support to residents, especially young people; c) designing and building flexible and adaptable housing for young people, such as joint-lease apartments or shared-living communities; d) advocating sustainable housing designs and developing corresponding housing design standard systems; e) establishing a comprehensive rental/sale system to ensure equal housing rights for all.

Area 2: Youth leading vibrant communities

Including but not limited to: a) giving full play to the leading role of youth to propose ideas, jointly planning, designing and building flexible and diverse community public spaces to accommodate various activities and needs; b) providing friendly community infrastructure for all ages and service facilities, such as barrier-free facilities, as well as childcare, elderly healthcare, and family services, etc.; c) providing entrepreneurial spaces in communities

through urban design and cultural activities, etc., to promote the integration of living and employment, and create vibrant communities with an innovative atmosphere; d) providing community services and emergency response systems through technology and institutional development, and enhancing community governance; and e) implementing urban renewal, renovating old residential areas, improving quality of life, and coordinating the preservation of historical and cultural heritages and their revitalization.

Area 3: Innovative development for urban prosperity

Including but not limited to: a) supporting the gradual transition of urban economies through high value-added sectors to high productivity sectors, enhancing high quality productive forces, and promoting economic recovery through diversification and technological upgrading; b) improving financial and fiscal policies, mobilizing resources from all channels to ensure funding needs for sustainable urban planning and urban renewal ; c) providing suitable space and facilities to support flexible employment, with particular focus on ensuring young people receive fair wages and decent work; d) encouraging the significant role of young people, new technologies, new economy and other factors of the new generation to create new momentum for urban construction and development; e) encouraging the application of digital technologies to build smart cities, improving urban governance capabilities, and using new technologies to serve social justice and bridge the digital divide.

Area 4: Low-carbon and climate resilient urban development

Including but not limited to: a) adopting nature-based solutions to build cities and settlements that mitigate and adapt to climate change; b) advocating green buildings and green transportation, encouraging the use of renewable resources, and reducing energy consumption in buildings, transportation and other sectors; c) conserving water resources, maintaining regional water ecosystems, and improving urban flood control and drainage capacity; d) applying disaster risk monitoring technologies to improve cities' abilities to respond to extreme weather events and other types of disaster risks; and e) protecting poor and vulnerable groups and enhancing their resilience to shocks.

II. Eligibility

Cities and municipalities around the world are eligible to be applicants for the award. Cities demonstrating the following are especially welcome to apply:

- Outstanding performance in social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable urban development since 2016.
- Remarkable progress and innovation in sustainable urban development since 2016, with significant potential for further growth and development.
- A commitment to further realizing and advancing the ambitious goal of sustainable urban development.
- Best practices in sustainable urban development which can be promoted around the world to inspire and motivate other cities to jointly implement sustainable development actions.

III. Prizes and awards

The second cycle of the award will be granted to no more than five cities. An award ceremony will be held at the major international platform and winners of the second cycle will be presented with a plaque and a trophy. The outstanding practices and achievements in sustainable urban development from the winning cities will be added to the best practices database of the NUA platform and the Shanghai Manual annual report, which will further showcase and enhance the visibility of the cities' efforts on sustainable urban and human settlement development. The winning cities will also be invited to attend important international events such as the WUF, and the Observance of World Cities Day, among others, gaining opportunities to exchange best practices with other cities, boost potential investment, and create new opportunities for local economic development.

IV. Application

(1) Application platform

The application form can be filled in and submitted through the website at <https://shanghaiaward.org>, where more information, guidance and resources for the application process are also available. Cities are encouraged to align the application with their Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR).

(2) Application materials

The application includes two approaches: i) self-application; and ii) application with nomination. The Application Form can be completed on the online application portal from the award website, where applicants can also upload supporting materials. The application can be revised at any time before the Call for Applications closes. Requirements for the application are as follows:

a. Self-application:

All applicant cities/municipalities are required to submit an official Application Letter to confirm that the city/municipality decides to apply to the second cycle of the award. The Application Letter must include the official letterhead and an official stamp/signature of the mayor (or the equivalent) of the applicant city/municipality. A template for the Application Letter is in the annex of this Call and can also be downloaded via the online application portal.

b. Application with nomination:

Member States of the United Nations (UN), UN agencies other than UN-Habitat, organisations and institutions that have consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or that have been specially invited by UN-Habitat can nominate. An official Nomination Letter and a Confirmation Letter by the city/municipality are required. The nominator must write an official Nomination Letter, with an official letterhead and the stamp of the nominator, to state that they nominate the city/municipality concerned to apply to the second cycle of the award and explain why they make the nomination. The Confirmation Letter must include the official letterhead and an official stamp/signature of the mayor (or the equivalent) of the applicant city/municipality and confirm that they agree to be nominated and apply to the award.

(3) Language of the application:

English

(4) Terms and conditions

1) The applicant city/municipality is responsible for completing and submitting the application following the Call for Applications Rules and Guidelines.

2) The applicant city/municipality is responsible for the authenticity and legality of the submitted materials.

3) Applications will be disqualified in the following situations:

a. Failure to observe the Call for Applications Rules and Guidelines;

b. Presenting misleading and false information regarding the supporting documents;

c. Inability to provide sufficient information for the assessment of the application;

d. Unethical behaviour, including undue pressure on any person involved in the evaluation and selection process.

- 4) Incomplete applications or late submissions will not be considered. The task force for the award may request for supplementary materials from applications on the condition that the original application was completed according to the Rules and Guidelines and the timeline, and that additional information is helpful for further assessments of the application against the core selection criteria.
- 5) Questions marked with an * are required to answer, and the rest are optional. Please note that the applicant must answer all required questions. Incomplete application will lead to disqualification of the application. Applicants fail to provide the required quantitative indicators in the questions should provide a brief description related to the conditions.
- 6) You are encouraged to provide supporting materials with your submission, for example, photographs, videos, media reports, promotional materials, procedural documents, supporting bylaws or city regulations and policies (brief), or working standards, etc. These are not compulsory but will help to strengthen your application.
- 7) The applications can be revised before the Call for Applications closes. Once the Call for Applications is closed, the materials submitted will not be returned. The applicant should back up the original documents as needed.
- 8) Where the Application Letter from the applicant city/municipality is submitted, all materials in the applications will be available for international exhibition, demonstration, publication, and media coverage. The award task force will cite the source of the information while using it but will not be required to seek further permission for any such use.
- 9) Where the submission of an application is made by someone assigned by the applicant city/municipality, it is assumed that they have been given permissions for the submission and the terms indicated in point (8) above.
- 10) The prize for the winning application will be awarded to the city/municipality named in the application form.

V. Selection criteria

The applications will be assessed according to four core criteria.

- (1) **Impact:** The achievements, progress, and proven impact on implementing the 2030 Agenda and the NUA.
- (2) **Sustainability:** The strategies, plans and actions that underpin the long-term implementation of the SDGs and the NUA in the city.
- (3) **Innovation:** The innovative approaches, methods, practices, technologies, or instruments to enable the realisation of the SDGs and the NUA.
- (4) **Adaptability:** The extent to which the city's experience can be replicated, adopted, or scaled up by other cities or in similar scenarios.

On top of the core criteria, the applicants will be given bonus points if they have accomplishments in the areas that are closely related to the approaches that UN-Habitat promotes for realising the SDGs and the NUA.

VI. Selection process

After the closing date of the Call for Applications, the award task force will do the screening according to the eligibility and compliance of the applications. A technical review team will be set up to do the initial shortlisting.

An International Jury will be established as the core assessment body of the award. The International Jury will give its review report and the recommendations for winners.

UN-Habitat will confirm the list of winning cities based on the Jury Review Report after consulting with internal and external stakeholders.

The “Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities (Shanghai Award)” is jointly established by UN-Habitat and Shanghai Municipality. Please visit the official website: <https://shanghaiaward.org> for this Application Rules and Guidelines (in six UN official languages). Should you have any questions or encounter any problems during the application process, you can send your inquiries to the award task force at siqi.chen@un.org and outreach@shanghaiaward.org.

The award task force reserves the rights of final interpretation for the Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities (Shanghai Award) Call for Applications Rules and Guidelines of the second cycle.